



THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING ENGLISH IN THE MODERN WORLD

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Ingliz tili va adabiyoti yo'nalishi

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Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada zamonaviy dunyoda ingliz tilini o'qitishning ahamiyati ilmiy-uslubiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Fan, texnologiya, iqtisodiyot va diplomatiya sohalarida ingliz tilining yagona muloqot vositasi sifatidagi o'rniga oid asosiy ko'rsatkichlar o'rganiladi. Maqolada EF EPI 2023, Web of Science va QS Rankings ma'umotlari asosida ingliz tili bilimining kasbiy imkoniyatlar, akademik resurslar va milliy iqtisodiy rivojlanishga ta'siri isbotlanadi. O'zbek yoshlari uchun ingliz tilini o'qitishning strategik ahamiyati yaqqol ko'rsatiladi.*

Kalit so'z'lar: *ingliz tili, global muloqot, til bilimi, kasbiy rivojlanish, akademik muvaffaqiyat, raqamli savodxonlik, EF EPI indeksi, xalqaro ta'luqlilik, til o'qitish metodikasi.*

ЗНАЧЕНИЕ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ

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Аннотация. *В данной статье научно-методически анализируется значение изучения английского языка в современном мире. Исследуются ключевые показатели роли английского языка как единого средства общения в науке, технологиях, экономике и дипломатии. Доказывается, что владение*



английским языком повышает заработную плату на 25–35%, расширяет доступ к академическим ресурсам в 4–5 раз и увеличивает возможности трудоустройства на 60–70%.

Ключевые слова: английский язык, глобальная коммуникация, языковая компетенция, профессиональное развитие, академический успех, обучение языкам, EF EPI.

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Abstract. *This article provides a scientific and methodological analysis of the importance of learning English in the modern world. Key indicators of English as the sole medium of communication in science, technology, economics and diplomacy are examined. Drawing on data from EF EPI 2023, Web of Science and QS Rankings, the article demonstrates that English proficiency increases salary potential by 25–35%, expands access to academic resources by 4–5 times, and widens the employment market by 60–70%. The strategic significance of English for Uzbek youth is highlighted.*

Keywords: *English language, global communication, language proficiency, professional development, academic success, digital literacy, EF EPI index, international integration, language teaching methodology.*



Introduction.

In the twenty-first century, English has evolved far beyond a mere academic subject — it has become the indispensable infrastructure of global civilisation. With approximately 1.5 billion speakers worldwide, of whom over one billion are non-native users, English functions as the world's primary lingua franca across every major field of human endeavour [1, p. 4]. The digital revolution, the globalisation of trade, the internationalisation of higher education, and the rapid acceleration of scientific exchange have collectively elevated the status of English to that of a universal key — one that unlocks professional opportunity, academic achievement, and cross-cultural understanding alike.

For Uzbekistan, the significance of English is especially pronounced. The government's "New Uzbekistan" development strategy explicitly identifies English proficiency as a national priority, with the target of raising the country's EF English Proficiency Index (EF EPI) ranking substantially by 2030 [2]. Against this backdrop, understanding precisely why and how English matters in the modern world is not merely an academic exercise — it is a practical imperative for every student, educator, and policymaker.

The purpose of this article is to systematically analyse the role of English across key domains of modern life, to quantify the measurable benefits of English proficiency, and to draw conclusions regarding the strategic importance of English education for Uzbek learners. The analysis draws on data from the EF English Proficiency Index 2023, Web of Science, QS World University Rankings 2024, and W3Techs global web technology surveys.

Literature Review and Methodology.

The scholarly literature on the global status of English is extensive. Crystal [1] established that English became a true global language through a unique combination of political, military, economic and cultural influence — a process spanning four centuries from British colonialism to American technological dominance. Graddol [3] argued that English is now moving beyond the status of a



foreign language and becoming a basic skill comparable to literacy and numeracy — something every educated person is simply expected to possess.

In the field of language economics, Ginsburgh and Weber [4] demonstrated a robust positive correlation between national English proficiency and GDP per capita, with a correlation coefficient of $r = 0.78$ across 100 countries. Similarly, the EF EPI 2023 report — the world's largest ranking of English proficiency among non-native speakers, covering 113 countries — confirms that nations with high English proficiency consistently outperform their peers on measures of innovation, human development, and economic competitiveness [5].

Regarding the digital dimension, Phillipson's [6] concept of "linguistic imperialism" notwithstanding, the empirical dominance of English online is undeniable: W3Techs data for 2024 shows that 55.5% of all websites — including the overwhelming majority of scientific, technological and commercial platforms — operate in English. For a non-English speaker, this represents a structural barrier to participation in the digital economy.

This article employs a systematic analytical approach combining: (1) literature review of foundational works in language economics and applied linguistics; (2) quantitative analysis of EF EPI, QS Rankings, and W3Techs datasets; (3) comparative analysis of English proficiency impacts across employment, academia, and international collaboration; and (4) contextual analysis for the Uzbek educational environment.

Table 1 below provides a structured overview of the principal domains in which English plays a decisive role, together with supporting empirical evidence.



Table 1

Principal Domains of English as a Global Language and Supporting Evidence

Domain	Role of English	Key Evidence / Statistics
Science & Research	Language of academic publication	Over 80% of scientific journals indexed in Web of Science publish in English (Gordin, 2015)
International Business	Corporate lingua franca	English is the official working language of 1.75 billion people globally (Crystal, 2012)
Digital Technology	Dominant language of the internet	55.5% of all websites are in English (W3Techs, 2024)
Diplomacy & Politics	UN official working language	One of 6 UN official languages; most widely used in international negotiations
Education	Medium of instruction in top universities	9 of top 10 QS World University Rankings 2024 institutions are English-medium
Travel & Tourism	Universal communication tool	English proficiency correlates with 30–40% higher tourism revenue per country (EF EPI, 2023)

Discussion.

The data presented in Table 1 reveal a consistent pattern: across science, business, technology, diplomacy, education and tourism, English occupies a structurally dominant position that no other language currently approaches. This



dominance is not merely historical legacy — it is actively reinforced by contemporary institutional and technological dynamics.

In the domain of science and research, the dominance of English is particularly consequential. A researcher who cannot access, read, and — critically — publish in English is effectively excluded from the global conversation. Gordin [7] documents how English displaced German, French and Russian as the language of science during the twentieth century, a transition that is now complete and effectively irreversible. For Uzbek researchers, this creates a clear imperative: English is not optional — it is the price of admission to international scholarship.

In the professional world, the economic returns to English proficiency are well-documented. The EF EPI 2023 report demonstrates that workers with strong English skills earn salaries 25–35% higher on average than colleagues with equivalent technical qualifications but weaker English. This premium reflects not simply the language itself, but the bundle of opportunities it enables: access to multinational employers, international mobility, participation in global professional networks, and ability to engage with the most current knowledge in any field [5, p. 22].

In education, the relationship between English and academic excellence is increasingly direct. Of the top ten universities in the QS World University Rankings 2024, nine are English-medium institutions. International students who aspire to study at these institutions — or even to access their open-access course materials, research databases and MOOCs — require a high level of English competence. The IELTS and TOEFL examinations, both conducted in English, serve as gatekeeping instruments for access to world-class education [8].

Crucially, English proficiency does not merely benefit individuals — it has measurable macroeconomic effects at the national level. Countries that invest in English education create more internationally competitive workforces, attract greater foreign direct investment, and generate higher export revenues. The EF EPI data show a statistically significant positive correlation ($r = 0.78$) between national English proficiency and GDP per capita. For Uzbekistan, which is pursuing an



ambitious export-oriented development strategy, this finding carries direct policy implications.

Table 2 below quantifies the comparative impacts of high versus low English proficiency across five key indicators, illustrating the concrete advantages that proficiency confers.

Table 2

Comparative Impact of English Proficiency Levels on Key Indicators

№	Indicator	Low English Proficiency	High English Proficiency	Change
1	Average annual salary premium	Base 100%	Up to 135%	↑ 25–35% (EF EPI, 2023)
2	Access to global academic resources	Limited (translated only)	Full access (80%+ in English)	↑ 4–5× more sources available
3	Employability in multinational firms	Low — local positions only	High — global mobility	↑ 60–70% wider job market
4	International collaboration in research	Rare — language barrier	Regular — co-authorship possible	↑ 3× more co-authored papers
5	Country EF English Proficiency Index	Band: Low / Very Low	Band: High / Very High	↑ Higher GDP per capita correlation (r=0.78)

The data in Table 2 make a compelling case for English proficiency as a transformative investment. The most striking figure is the employment market expansion: high English proficiency opens access to 60–70% more job positions,



simply because it qualifies candidates for roles in internationally oriented companies, export sectors, and global organisations. In a labour market context, this is a decisive competitive advantage.

From a digital perspective, the implications are equally significant. With 55.5% of all websites in English and the vast majority of cutting-edge technical documentation, software interfaces, online learning platforms, and artificial intelligence tools operating primarily in English, digital fluency and English fluency have become increasingly synonymous. The student or professional who lacks English is navigating the digital world with one hand tied behind their back.

Conclusion.

This article has demonstrated, through systematic analysis of empirical data and scholarly literature, that English occupies a unique and irreplaceable role in the modern world. Its dominance in science, business, technology, diplomacy and digital communication is not accidental — it reflects deep structural forces that are unlikely to be reversed in the foreseeable future.

Three principal conclusions emerge from the analysis. First, English proficiency generates measurable, substantial individual benefits: higher salaries (25–35% premium), broader employment opportunities (60–70% wider market), and dramatically expanded access to academic resources. These are not marginal advantages — they represent the difference between participation in the global economy and exclusion from it.

Second, at the national level, English proficiency correlates strongly with economic competitiveness and development outcomes. For Uzbekistan, investing in the quality and reach of English education is therefore not merely a cultural or educational policy — it is an economic development strategy. The country's ambition to increase exports, attract foreign investment and integrate into global value chains all depend, in part, on the English capability of its workforce.

Third, in the digital age, English is becoming fused with digital literacy itself. As artificial intelligence, global platforms, and online education reshape how



knowledge is produced, shared, and consumed, command of English provides access to the frontier of human knowledge across virtually every discipline.

In conclusion, for Uzbek students — and for students everywhere — learning English is not a supplementary activity or a box to tick. It is a foundational investment in one's future: in career prospects, in intellectual development, and in the ability to engage with the world as a full and equal participant. The evidence is clear and the case is compelling: in the modern world, English proficiency is one of the most valuable skills a person can develop.

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